



MN11 10

Buscad, buen amor **Juan Vásquez**

Arranged by Steve Walter

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Buscad, buen amor Juan Vásquez 1510-1560

Original Score

Buscad, buen amor

Juan Vásquez

Bus - cad, buen a - mor, con qué me fa -
Bus - cad, buen a - mor, bus - cad buen a - mor, con qué me
Bus - cad, buen a - mor, con qué me fa - la -
Bus - cad, buen a - mor, bus - cad, ben a - mor, con qué me fa -

la - gue - des, que mal e - no - ja - da me te - ne - des, que
fa - la - gue - des, que mal e - no - ja - da me te - ne - des, que
que - des, que mal e - no - ja - da me te - ne - des,
la - gue - des, que mal e - no - ja - da me te - ne - des, que

mal e - no - ja - da me te - ne - des. A -
mal e - no - ja - da me te - ne - des. A - no - che, a - mor, a -
que mal e - no - ja - da me te - ne - des. A - no - che, a -
mal e - no - ja - da me te - ne - des. A - no - che, a - mor, a -

25 2

no - che, a - mor, os es - tu - ve a guar - dan - do. La puer - t'a - bier -
 no - che, a - mor, os es - tu - ve a guar - dan - do. La puer - t'a - bier -
 mor, os es - tu - ve, os es - tu - ve a - guar - do. La puer - t'a - bier -
 no - che, a - mor, os es - tu - ve a - guar - dan - do. La

30 35

ta, can - de - las que - man - do, y vos, buen a -
 ta, can - de - las que - man - do, y vos, buen a -
 te, can - de - las que - man - do,
 puer - t'a - bier - ta, can - de - las que - man - do, y vos, buen a -

Desde A
 hasta B

40

mor, con o - tra hol - gan - do. Que des.
 mor, con o - tra hol - gan - do. Que des.
 y vos buen a - mor, con o - tra hol - gan - do. des.
 mor, y vos buen a - mor, con o - tra hol - gan - do. Que des.

Historical context

Considering his importance as a composer of villancicos, surprisingly little is known of the life of Juan Vásquez. There is a record of him singing as a choirboy in 1511 at the Cathedral in Plasencia which puts his date of birth around 1500. He then turns up at Badajoz Cathedral in the late 1530s where he is teaching plainchant to choirboys. The year 1539 finds him singing in Palencia Cathedral whilst from 1551 he appears to be living in Seville where he remained until his death in about 1560.

The majority of Vasquez's compositions are secular villancicos of which about 90 have survived. They are characterised by simple counterpoint, careful setting of the text and great charm. Many of them are also set in a Spanish folk song style using folk poetry.

Translation

Buscad, buen amor,
con qué me falaguedes,
que mal enojada me tenedes.

Seek, my dearest,
for ways to flatter me.
because you have angered me.

Anoche, amor,
os estuve aguardando.
La puerta abierta,
candelas que mando,
y vos, buen amor,
con otra holgando.

Last night, my love,
I waited for you.
The door was open,
the candles burning,
whilst you, my dearest,
were taking pleasure with another.

I suspect the lady in this villancico is experienced in the art of love. Whilst her candle was burning, she had been expecting a night visitor on the previous evening. In mock anger, she accuses her lover of taking pleasure with another whilst she was waiting patiently all alone.

Performance directions

Buscad, buen amor is scored for voice, alto/tenor recorder, viol and vihuela. In the instrumental introduction, the melody is played on the alto recorder to the accompaniment of the bass viol and vihuela. When the voice enters for the song, the recorder player has to make a swift change from the alto to the tenor. The viol plays pizzicato when the voice enters.

Suggested tempo: dotted breve = 60

To enable the music to be played by a greater diversity of instruments, I have added a transposed part for guitar which would need to have a capo placed on the third fret and the third string tuned down a semitone to F#. A cello can be substituted for the viol, a flute, oboe or clarinet for the viol and a lute for the vihuela.

References

Recopilación de sonetos y villancicos, Sevilla 1560 (No.27)